

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

Confirmed

Saul Goldberg
13126 Dairymaid Drive
Germantown MD 20874
1 March 2003

MAR 21 2003

Distribution Center

FCC
455 12th St. NW
WDC 20554

Dear Commisioner Powell;

I am writing to you to comment on Docket number 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I am very concerned about the competition aspects, and related freeness and openness of the media.

The studies commissioned by the FCC are highly flawed and incomplete. What the public—who actually owns the airwaves, ultimately—needs is *more competition, rather than less*. But the direction seems, unfortunately to be towards less. Less diversity, less local content, and less competition as fewer companies gobble up more and more of the total media picture, with the approval up to this point of the FCC.

The free flow of information is essential to a thriving democratic process. As Thomas Jefferson observed, we could do far better with a free press and no government, than we could with a government and no press. The technical and financial structures in which the flow of information exists are quite different from when he made his assertion, but democracy—um, you do believe in democracy, don't you?—is still just as dependent on that free flow of information. And in this day and age, the preservation of open and free information requires our intervention. The public interest will best be served by expanding the decentralization of ownership rather than further consolidating it.

If this were only about cable rate increases, cell phone aggravations, and dismal service it would be still be important enough. But it is about *the very foundation of democracy!* If information is allowed to continue to be "owned", and thus increasingly limited by fewer and fewer hands, the future for the great American example of freedom and government is bleak. I want you to "unbleak-ify" it, and set it free.

Please convince me that you understand and will protect the country from the consolidation of media outlets. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein;

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Dear Commisioner Abernathy;

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Dear Commissioner Copps;

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Dear Commisioner Martin;

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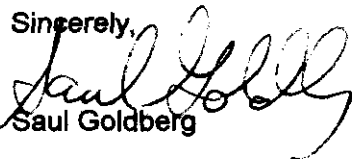
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